

Signs of the Season  
July 2008



## THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

**July 1** — Vehicle Stickers must be displayed.

**Economic Development Committee**, 6 p.m., **Plan Commission**, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall, **Library Board**, 7 p.m., at the Library

**July 2** — **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

**July 4** — **Independence Day**, City Hall and Public Works closed. No refuse pickup. Refuse collection delayed one day.

**July 7** — **Board of Fire and Police Commissioners**, 9 a.m., City Hall

**July 8** — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**July 10** — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

**July 15** — **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**July 16** — **Urban Affairs Committee**, 5 p.m., City Hall

**July 17** — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

**July 19** — **Terry Moran Day**, 11 a.m. at Kimball Hill Park

**July 22** — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**July 24** — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall



# NEWS

Volume 12, Number 7



# & Views

3600 Kirchoff Road . Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 . 847-394-8500 . [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

## Summer Celebrations in the City

### Celebrate Independence Day Rolling Meadows-style, July 4

**11:30 a.m.** — "A Community with Pride" Independence Day Parade, sponsored by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce. The parade begins at the corner of Jay Lane and Central Road, heads north on Jay to Grouse Lane, west to Meadow Drive, then turns north on Meadow Drive to Kirchoff Road.

**8 p.m.** — Music and prize give-aways at Salk Park, courtesy of disc jockey Sal Cerone and his Monster Boom Box.

**9:30 p.m.** — "Highly explosive" fireworks display, featuring 5,800 shots, brings Independence Day festivities to a thunderous conclusion.



*Music, merriment and, of course, the fireworks made last year's Independence Day festivities memorable.*

JULY

### Terry Moran Family Day, July 19, Kimball Hill Park

Hayrides, moonwalk, obstacle course, and co-rec softball and baggo tournaments provide fun for the whole family 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### 'Cornfest,' August 2, at Community Church

Community Church of Rolling Meadows will host the 52nd annual Cornfest and Craft Fair Saturday, August 2, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., at the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive.

● Enjoy all-you-can-eat sweet corn smothered in butter, hamburgers, hot dogs, relishes, grilled onions, watermelon and beverages.

● Peruse booths filled with handmade arts and crafts created by local artists and other vendors.

● Dance the late afternoon/early evening away with music provided by Rolling Meadows' own Frankie Miglio.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children ages 10 and under. Contact Community Church at 847-255-5510.

AUGUST

## Karaoke Competition Featured at Park District 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event, August 23

Compete in the first "Rolling Meadows Idol" when the Park District hosts a "Party in the Park" to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, August 23, in Kimball Hill Park.

Chicago-based Live Band Karaoke will provide an incredible assortment of pop, rock, retro, soul, country, disco, blues and other tunes during this afternoon event. Pick a song and sing along!

Judging the competition will be Mayor Ken Nelson, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Linda Ballantine, and Park Commissioner Patti Weicker, who will crown the winner.

The Park District's "Party in the Park" 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will feature a wide range of games and live entertainment for the entire family. Other highlights include:

● Kids carnival games and amusements.

● OD TAPO IMI, a Broadway Island musical review.

● Headline performance by the Retrorockets, a seven-piece band specializing in rock n' roll, classic rock, and jazz.

For more information, contact the Park District at 847-818-3200, or visit [www.rmparks.org](http://www.rmparks.org).

Look Us Up on the Web  
at: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

# Public Works' Al Steinhoff Retires After 34 Years

An honorary motorcade with police escort shuttled Public Works' Street Maintenance Superintendent Al Steinhoff to work on May 23. It was Steinhoff's last day on the job, exactly 34 years and three days after he first joined the Public Works Department's Street Division.

Steinhoff's retirement marked the end of a career devoted to serving the City and its residents. A Mayoral Proclamation recognizing May 23 as "Al Steinhoff Day" in Rolling Meadows commended Steinhoff for his "outstanding dedication and service" and demonstration of "old school values and work ethic."

"Al was a stickler for doing things right the first time," recalls John Gaddini, who worked with Steinhoff his entire career. "He hated to do things twice. That bugged the heck out of him."

Steinhoff demanded excellence and

professionalism from himself and those around him. "If he told you to be at a particular job site at 7 a.m., you'd be there 10 minutes early," Gaddini adds. "If you showed up even 30 seconds late, he'd

envy of the northwest suburbs. Steinhoff has supervised those efforts since 1980.

"I remember snow storms so intense I couldn't see two feet in front of the plow," he says. "It doesn't matter. You keep going and



**Public Works employees surrounded Al Steinhoff (center) for a warm retirement luncheon sendoff, also attended by his children and grandchildren.**

tell you to go home."

Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett says Steinhoff's commitment to serving the City made those around him better employees.

"Al's number one priority was to get the job done, and that was contagious," Hartnett explains. "The fact that he was older than most of us, and had a lot more experience, made him a sort of 'father-figure' to us all."

"More like a drill sergeant," Gaddini adds with a laugh.

Steinhoff's career with Public Works may one day be the stuff of legend. Years ago, as a member of the Refuse Division, he suffered a deep cut on his leg when a garbage bag filled with broken glass spilt open. After a trip to the hospital and 15 stitches, Steinhoff ignored the doctor's advice and returned to work to complete his route.

Steinhoff's toughness and dedication produced results for City residents. Case in point: Rolling Meadows' snow removal operations have long been the

let the adrenaline pull you through. We won't wait until a storm passes or starts to diminish before starting to plow. That is a major inconvenience to residents."

"Al could always be counted on to provide first-class service at all hours of the day," Public Works Director Fred Vogt says. "Day or night, he's been the driving force behind the City's efforts to completely clear the streets and make driving easier for our residents."

Steinhoff, known affectionately as "Albatross" by his fellow Public Works employees, referred to the City's employees as "one big family" throughout his career. His devotion to serving residents and businesses was matched only by his concern for his fellow team members.

"If you needed help, either at work or away from work, Al was always there to lend a hand," 23-year Public Works employee Dan Seveska says. "Years ago, as I was saving to buy a house, Al helped me out by assigning me to any additional work projects that were available. He helped me become a homeowner, and I'm forever grateful to him for that."

Steinhoff's fellow employees still get a chuckle when talking about him. For example, he had a tendency to refer to the Internet as "the Interstate" and, despite his 6'5", 220-lb size, was afraid of mice.

"We like to get a laugh at his expense sometimes, but the bottom line is that Al's a great friend who will be sorely missed here at Public Works," Gaddini says.

Steinhoff, who served in Vietnam, continues to serve as a member of the City's Veterans Committee.

## Your Property Tax Dollars at Work

Property tax revenues comprise just 23% of the City's General Fund – which covers vital services such as police and fire protection, and funds the City's Public Works, Community Development and Administrative Departments.

Since 2000, the City's share has dropped from \$1.31 to .72 per \$100 of assessed valuation, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

"Ongoing economic development helps create diversified revenue streams that allow us to lessen our reliance on property taxes to fund City services," Egeberg explains. "This financial security has helped us reduce the burden on residents and offer one of the lowest tax rates in the northwest suburbs."



# Why We Have to Redefine Downtown

BY TOM MELENA, CITY MANAGER

An economic development colleague of mine used to say, "It seems as though we're always fighting the marketplace. Just as soon as we've finished creating something new and exciting, it's no longer viable." That's the way we might look at downtown Rolling Meadows.

Our downtown was planned as the City's retail center. It was also a spiritual center, with a church at the corner of one of the main retail intersections. That's an idea that was great when we were a small community 40 years ago, but it won't work today. The City's retail center has moved to the area of Golf and Algonquin Roads. Like it or not, we have to redefine downtown to suit a changed market.

The trend we are using as a model for our downtown of the future is sometimes described as neotraditional. It is new **and** old. This model for downtown is walkable, just as downtowns used to be. It is friendly and seeks to engender an environment where folks will meet and greet one another. It is vertical mixed use, with retail stores on the

first level and residential units above, as we have done in the Riverwalk development.

To be successful, this downtown model needs a large residential component. We now have 500 residential units within one-quarter mile of downtown's core center point, marked by the McDonald's restaurant on one side of Kirchoff and the Harris Bank on the other. Redevelopment of the old Dominick's site might add 300 additional residential units. As we approach 1,000 downtown residential units, we will have the customer base the unique new retailers we want to attract need to build successful businesses.

The former Dominick's site is no longer viable for a large retail store. When Dominick's opened there, the store was doing \$25 million a year. After Dominick's opened a second store at Euclid and Quentin, it cut the downtown store's volume by 20 percent. As Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and

Meijer opened at Golf and Algonquin, Dominick's volume fell to half of what it had been.

Big box retail won't work there anymore. Those retailers look for a traffic count of 40,000 to 50,000 cars per day minimum, nearly twice that of Kirchoff Road.



***The trend we are using as a model for our downtown of the future is sometimes described as neotraditional. It is new and old.***

It can be hard for people to accept the inevitability of change. The City's former Mayor, Tom Menzel, often said, "Change is inevitable, but growth is optional. In Rolling Meadows, we plan on growing." It is in that spirit that we have redefined the vision for downtown.

We know it will take time to redevelop downtown Rolling Meadows to serve the many people attracted by a neotraditional style of living. I'm sure we'll still be working on downtown Rolling Meadows 20 years from now.

The community surrounding downtown Rolling Meadows has a great deal to offer. Like to have a day's entertainment filled with pageantry and excitement? Arlington Park is right here. Looking for a golf game? Courses are all around us. For health care, we're right next to world-class hospitals. Shopping? Golf and Algonquin is

waiting. The largest mall in the Chicago area is right next door, and so is a brand new convention center. The international airport is only eight miles away. Education? Choose between Olivet, DePaul, Harper, Roosevelt, or the Northern Illinois University campus at Hoffman Estates.

We are receptive to every reasonable proposal that will help redevelop a downtown of the future for people looking for a vibrant city center offering ample opportunities to live, work, play, and shop—all without using the high-priced gasoline required to move a car these days.

## City Council Approves Recruitment Profile of Next City Manager

City Council has approved a recruitment profile outlining the qualifications required of applicants to succeed Tom Melena as City Manager, when he retires at year-end, after more than seven years on the job.

Announcements of the opening were placed in professional and other appropriate publications and Internet sites by the end of June. Applicants who respond to the job announcement before the August 8 deadline for submitting resumes will receive a copy of the profile. The City's professional recruiting consultants, The PAR Group, Lake Bluff, created the profile after completing interviews with the Mayor, Aldermen, City department heads, community representatives, and the public.

A Master's degree in Public Administration or Business Administra-

tion is highly desired in the City's next Manager, according to the profile. Strong general management, economic development, and fiscal management skills are important. Outstanding organizational skills, plus proven interpersonal communication and well-developed writing skills are required.

The new Manager should bring seven to ten years experience "and a record of achievement as a City Manager or Assistant City Manager or comparable senior manager in a full-service, quality oriented community of similar complexity and economic diversity," the profile says. It stresses creating a vision for the future, knowledge of economic development and business promotion, financial management and budgeting, and "rethinking organizational processes to assess the most effective structure, and

the ability to identify and make changes when needed."

The Manager should be "articulate and an effective communicator, someone who is 'easy to talk with' and has good listening skills...desirous of working and living in a community of cultural and economic diversity and life styles."

It is a long list of required education, professional experience, management style and traits. One of the shortest entries is this one: "Be apolitical but be politically savvy and astute."

It also outlines the City's expected challenges and opportunities, internal and external, within the first year of the new Manager's tenure and longer term. The entire profile is available on PAR Group's Website at [www.pargroupltd.com](http://www.pargroupltd.com).

# Geographical Information System Helps City Monitor Utility Assets

A two-month project to develop a water meter inventory database that links to the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) will help the Public Works Department use electronic record-keeping to monitor the status of the City's 6,500 water accounts, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Don Wenzel reports.

The new database, the result of a collaborative effort by professionals from the Public Works, Finance and Information Technology (IT) Departments, catalogs the size, serial number, age and physical location of every water meter throughout Rolling Meadows. This information helps the City gauge water usage as tracked by individual meter readings, which will improve operational efficiencies as Public Works crews determine water meter maintenance and replacement schedules.

"The information GIS provides will help us increase efficiency," Wenzel explains. "Instead of embarking on a staggered, City-wide replacement program every 10 years, we can identify potentially inaccurate readings, send crews out to investigate and, if required, replace individual meters."

Accessing information via GIS may be instantaneous, but compiling the information on 6,500 water meters for GIS use was an intensive process. Senior Accountant Melissa Gallagher worked with Public Works, IT and the City's accounting software provider to integrate data from numerous sources into one program that could be easily "imported" to the GIS utility.

"The challenge was to incorporate these diverse pieces of information – serial numbers, meter size, type, etc. – into one platform," Gallagher explains. "We had to filter each piece of data to ensure that it was compatible with the GIS format."

GIS uses computer hardware, software and geographic data to offer detailed, computer-generated schematics pinpointing the location of the City's utility assets to within



The GIS sample map at right shows details the intersection of Kirchoff Road and Owl Lane.

one foot.

Data provided by GIS offers Public Works an updated "ledger" of these assets, helps professionals quickly respond to situations such as a broken water main, and improves the accuracy of digging projects often required for new developments.

## 'Green' Tip

### Fuel Saving Tips Help Protect Environment, Residents' Pocketbooks

With residents feeling the pinch at the gas pump, consider these tips to reduce fuel consumption:

- Observe Speed Limits – The faster you drive, the more fuel you use. Driving at 65 mph as opposed to 55 mph, for example, increases fuel consumption by 20%.

Driving at 75 mph increases consumption by another 25%.

- Avoid Unnecessary Idling – Turn off the vehicle's engine if you anticipate a lengthy wait. No matter how efficient a vehicle is, idling gets drivers zero miles-per-gallon and pollutes the air.

- Keep Tires Properly Inflated – Underinflated tires

can increase fuel consumption by 6%.

- Anticipate Driving Situations – During city driving, acceleration consumes nearly 50% of the energy required to power a vehicle. Go easy on the gas pedal and avoid sudden stops.

# Fire Station 16 Modernization Complete

Culmination of a \$300,000 modernization project for Plum Grove Fire Station (Station 16) has created a completely new interior configuration that makes better use of existing space and enhances the ability of Fire Department personnel to coordinate operations.

The renovation plan reflects Plum Grove Fire Station's important role in the Fire Department's comprehensive strategy to effectively prepare for future fire protection needs. The new Station 16 layout allows the Department to consolidate its Training Division operations under one roof.

"Logistically, it is much easier to coordinate Department operations when everyone is in the same building, as opposed to being on opposite sides of the City," Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains.

Other improvements include conference rooms and larger workspaces for Department training seminars, a new entrance/reception area, and modern facilities for the Fire Prevention Bureau.

"The Fire Prevention Bureau is an important aspect of the Department's proactive fire prevention program," Chief Stewart adds. "Bureau inspectors verify that buildings across the City meet code requirements, making Rolling Meadows a safer community in which to work and live. Modernized facilities will make the Bureau more effective in carrying out its mission."

The recently completed remodeling project followed construction of a new dormitory facility in 2007, which increased Station 16's maximum capacity by 20%.

# City Remembers Its Veterans At Annual Memorial Day Ceremony



Alderman Tom Rooney (left) gave the invocation, benediction, and an inspiring speech about the importance of a name during a memorable Memorial Day program. It began with a parade featuring the Rolling Meadows High School Mustangs marching band (upper right).



Pictured at right are families remembering their own, children enjoying the parade, and the Rolling Meadows Police Honor Guard (far right).



## New Exhibit Honors Park District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Historical Society members have unveiled a new exhibit at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rolling Meadows Park District.

The exhibit's centerpiece is a display of vintage rod puppets used in "Opera in Focus" presentations, which were hosted by the Park District in the 1990s. Museum guests may also view scores of original documents, scrapbooks and photographs that tell the story of the Park District's first 50 years.

The exhibit will run through August, when the Park District celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a community-wide "Party in the Park," Saturday, August 23, at Kimball Hill Park.

## Memorial Day Weekend Inferno Demonstrates Importance of Fire Safety

A major residential fire in the Winthrop Village subdivision over Memorial Day weekend underscores the importance of fire safety and the need for working smoke detectors.

First responders to the fire's location discovered a townhouse completely engulfed in flames that rose nearly 30 ft. into the air. Realizing that the structure was a complete loss, firefighters immediately turned their attention to containing the fire and preventing the fire from spreading to neighboring homes.

With mutual aid assistance from 12 area fire departments, crews were able to prevent fire damage to additional homes and extinguish the fire.

The home had working smoke detectors and, fortunately, everyone escaped without harm.

Fire Chief Ron Stewart says the fire – the third major residential blaze to occur in Rolling Meadows over the past year – offers a vivid reminder of the need for fire safety awareness.

"This fire serves as a clear indicator of how quickly fire can spread. Early detection by smoke detectors is critical to providing enough time for residents to get out of a home where a fire has started," he explains.

The Fire Department urges all residents to:

- Install working smoke detectors on each level of the home;
- Test smoke detectors once per month;
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors at least twice per year.
- Prepare a fire escape plan as part of a home's overall safety plan.

"These simple steps can literally mean the difference between life and death," Chief Stewart adds.

Residents who would like to learn more about fire safety may contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

## Visit the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum

**Wednesdays,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m.**

**For more information,  
contact the Rolling  
Meadows Historical  
Society at 847-577-7086.**



## We Accepted the Challenge!

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

During the recent American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Rolling

Meadows was challenged to become a Community of Excellence by developing a program to educate our residents on ways they can lead healthier lives. I was glad to accept that challenge on behalf of all of us.

Under the direction of Alderman Barb Lusk (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward), who heads our Urban Affairs Committee, we will put together a number of events in 2009 that will help each of us improve our energy, lower our stress, reduce our cancer risks and, in general, feel better. We'll be calling on all of our citizens and our business community to join us in this effort.

We'll keep it simple for you so we can get everyone of all ages to take part in some or all of the events. And the bottom line is it will help everyone live a healthier life.



**Alderman Barb Lusk (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward) will put together a series of events in conjunction with the American Cancer Society.**

This program is put together in conjunction with the American Cancer Society. If you'd like to learn more about the health challenge, you can go to [www.cancer.org/greatamericans](http://www.cancer.org/greatamericans).

Meanwhile, we'll be developing ideas and resources so that we can meet this challenge.

You'll be hearing much more about this in the coming months as the specific plans are developed.

## Chamber Awards 2008 'Circle of Success'

More than 150 community members gathered at the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce's annual "Circle of Success" dinner in May to honor outstanding local businesses and business leaders. 2008 honorees are:

● **Business Leader of the Year** – Matt Hill, Cornerstone National Bank and Trust (posthumously);

● **Business of the Year** – Komatsu America Corporation;

● **Community Enhancement Award** – Holiday Inn/Holiday Inn Express & The Meadows Club;

● **Chamber Volunteer of the Year** – Tony Gurgiolo, Gurgiolo Associates, Ltd., CPAs

● **Community Leader (Lifetime Achievement Award)** – State Representative Carolyn Krause (R-66<sup>th</sup>).



*Matt Hill's widow, Sharon, and seven of the couple's eight children accepted the Business Leader of the Year award in a moving tribute to the popular banking executive, Rotary leader, and longtime Rolling Meadows resident, who died last November at the age of 50.*



*Tony Gurgiolo accepts the award as Chamber Volunteer of the Year.*



*Meadows Club President Madan Kulkarni (right) accepts the Community Enhancement Award from Mayor Ken Nelson.*

*Rolling Meadows has 89 miles of water mains, 78 miles of sanitary sewers, 65 miles of storm sewers, and 6,000 manholes for storm water drainage.*

## City Of Rolling Meadows

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson

City Clerk: Lisa Hinman

City Manager:  
Thomas M. Melena

City Hall Hours:  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

Curfew: Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m./Fri. & Sat. Midnight

### Aldermen

1st Ward: John Pitzafarro  
847-655-1390

2nd Ward: Barb Lusk  
847-567-2444

3rd Ward: Lawrence Buske  
847-255-9126

4th Ward: Tom Rooney  
847-392-2254

5th Ward: Glenn Adams  
847-259-5875

6th Ward: Kathy Kwandras  
847-398-7113

7th Ward: James Larsen  
630-244-4228

Fire & Police Emergency:  
911

Fire Department  
non-emergency:  
847-397-3352

Police non-emergency:  
847-255-2416

Public Works  
847-963-0500

Finance/Utility Billing  
Questions — 847-394-8500

Community Development  
Dept. — 847-506-6030

TDD: 847-506-0490

Senior Services  
847-506-2061

ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1  
PNRC — 847-506-2059

City Council, Committee of the Whole, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Plan Commission Meetings are televised on Cable TV Channel 6

